

# Mace Windu

CANON

LEGENDS

*"In the name of the Galactic Senate of the Republic, you're under arrest, Chancellor."*  
—Mace Windu, to Darth Sidious

**Mace Windu**, a **Force-sensitive human male**, was a revered **Jedi Master** and member of the **Jedi High Council** during the last **years** of the **Galactic Republic**. During his **time** in the **Jedi Order**, he once served as **elected leader** of the **Jedi** and, during the **Clone Wars**, as a **Jedi General** in the **Grand Army of the Republic**. He was the greatest champion of the Jedi Order and promoted its ancient traditions amidst the growing influence of the **dark side of the Force** in the **corrupt, declining days of the Republic**.

When the **Separatist Crisis** spawned the birth of the **Confederacy of Independent Systems** and **sparked** the **Clone Wars**, Windu and the Jedi rallied to the defense of the Republic and became the leaders of the Grand **Army** of the Republic. Throughout the war, Windu served the Jedi and the Republic in various capacities—on the battlefield in command of the **clone army**, on **Coruscant** as an overseer of the war effort and an **advisor** to **Supreme Chancellor Sheev Palpatine**, and even as a **diplomat** to contested **worlds**, despite his disdain of **politics**. His exploits on the frontline served as a reminder of his reputation as a renowned Jedi warrior.

As the war drew to a close, Windu became increasingly suspicious of the chancellor's motives, as Palpatine had amassed near-dictatorial control over the **Galactic Senate**, and sensed the rising power of the dark side in **the galaxy**. His suspicions were confirmed when **Anakin Skywalker**, a **Jedi Knight** and the **Chosen One** of ancient prophecy, discovered that Palpatine was **Darth Sidious**, the **Dark Lord of the Sith** who manipulated the Republic and the Separatist Alliance into war. Windu, along with Jedi Masters **Kit Fisto**, **Agen Kolar**, and **Saesee Tiin**, **confronted** Palpatine with the intention of **arresting** him. Instead, the Dark **Lord** attacked them, striking them down one by one until only Windu was left. Windu bested Palpatine in the confrontation and—deciding he was too dangerous to be left alive—prepared to strike him down, but the intervention of Anakin Skywalker, who saved the chancellor's life, led to Windu's **death**. As a result, Skywalker fell to the temptation of the dark side and was renamed Darth Vader.

Windu's actions led Palpatine to brand the Jedi as traitors to the Republic. The chancellor executed **Order 66**, and clone **troopers** across the **galaxy** turned against and killed their Jedi leaders, marking the **fall** of the Jedi Order. Palpatine **transformed** the Republic into the **Galactic Empire**, and the **Emperor's new regime** promoted **anti-Jedi sentiment** across the galaxy. Through **propaganda**, the Empire portrayed Windu as the leader of a **criminal gang** of Jedi who caused the outbreak of the Clone Wars. In spite of the propaganda, some of Windu's actions were remembered with fondness; **General Cham Syndulla**, who served alongside Windu during the **Battle of Ryloth**, remembered Windu with great respect and told the tale of how Windu helped him liberate **Ryloth** during the war.

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## Biography

### Early life



During his youth, Mace Windu was apprenticed to Jedi Master Cyslin Myr.

*"A fire burns inside you, Padawan. That, in itself, is not inherently wrong. It is my job to help you temper it. This is why I chose you to accompany me on this mission. I do so enjoy a challenge."*  
—Cyslin Myr, to Mace Windu

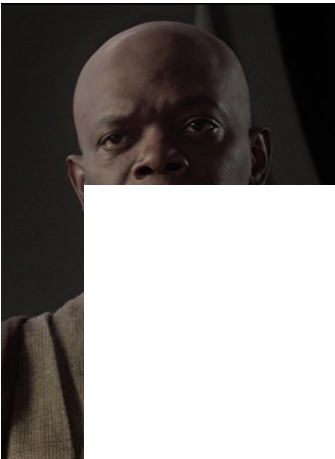
Mace Windu was **born** on the **planet Haruun Kal** approximately fifty **years** before the **Clone Wars**.<sup>[1]</sup> Due to his **natural affinity to the Force**, Windu was sent to the **Jedi Order**<sup>[3]</sup>—a monastic order of protectors, sworn to defend the **Galactic Republic**, and known as the guardians of peace and justice in **the galaxy**<sup>[9]</sup>—to learn the **Jedi arts**. Rising to the level of **Padawan**, he became the apprentice of **Jedi Master Cyslin Myr**; by then he possessed **a lightsaber** with an **amethyst-colored plasma** blade.<sup>[4]</sup>

Prior to the **Naboo Crisis**, Windu had achieved the rank of Jedi Master and gained a seat on the **Jedi High Council**—the governing body of the Jedi Order.<sup>[6]</sup> Long regarded<sup>[2]</sup> as the Jedi Order's greatest champion,<sup>[10]</sup> Windu endeavored to maintain the Jedi's ancient traditions while the Republic declined due to **galactic** unrest and **political** corruption.<sup>[2]</sup> As one of the most distinctive members of the Order,<sup>[10]</sup> Windu crafted a new **lightsaber** which—in addition to its specially designed handgrip and **electrum** finish, indicating his status as a member of the High Council<sup>[11]</sup>—also emitted a plasma blade of amethyst, making it **one of the most distinctive Jedi weapons**.<sup>[10]</sup>

During one of his missions, Windu rescued **Depa Billaba** from **pirates** and brought her to the **Jedi Temple** on **Coruscant** where he trained her to become a **Jedi Knight**.<sup>[8]</sup> By 32 BBY,<sup>[12]</sup> Billaba was serving on the High Council alongside her former Master.<sup>[6]</sup>

### Mission to Mathas

*"You would twist such a beautiful thing as faith into something so vile. Wring out what measly credits and adoration you could from these poor people—all while besmirching the esteem of the Jedi Order. And you think that punishment would not find its way to your doorstep? Yet you claim we are the stupid ones... I will make sure you never hurt another soul again. This I vow... As a true Jedi."*  
—Mace Windu, to Drooz



#### Biographic

Homeworld

Born

Died

#### Physical de

Species

Gender

Height

Hair color

Eye color

Skin color

#### Chronologic

Affiliation(s)

- squad<sup>[1]</sup>
  - Galactic Republic<sup>[6]</sup>
    - Republic military<sup>[5]</sup>
      - Grand Army of the Republic<sup>[5]</sup>

Masters

Cyslin Myr<sup>[4]</sup>

Apprentices

Depa Billaba<sup>[8]</sup>

[Source]

During Windu's apprenticeship under Cyslin Myr, a man named **Drooz** had taken residence in a Jedi **outreach temple** on the planet **Mathas**. With the local populace suffering from the effects of the **Niffin plague**, Drooz convinced the people that he was a Jedi **prophet** who could heal the sick and the dying in return for their faith and servitude. Upon receiving reports of Drooz's activities, the Order dispatched Myr to assess and apprehend him. At the same time, Myr sought to teach Windu how to channel his frustrations into an appropriate emotion and therefore brought him to Mathas.<sup>[4]</sup>

As they made their way to the **temple**, Windu observed the people's situation and pondered on what the Jedi could do to alleviate their suffering. He also denounced Drooz as a heretic and swindler who perverted the Jedi doctrine in order to take advantage of the people's misery. At that point his Master cautioned him to suppress his hostile feelings, having noticed how the thought of Drooz using the Jedi's teachings to prey on others frustrated Windu. They entered the temple and found Drooz with a group of Force worshippers, one of whom beseeched him to heal her child who was dying in spite of her many prayers and offerings.<sup>[4]</sup>

Windu accompanied his master to Mathas with orders to arrest a false Jedi prophet.

Drooz's followers came to his defense when the Jedi openly confronted him. Using the distraction they created, he tried to escape from the temple but was pursued by Windu. Although Drooz's **Gamorrean bodyguards** were defeated by the Padawan, Drooz managed to injure Windu's left **arm** with his **blaster pistol**. He taunted Windu and mocked the Jedi's ways, sneering at their commitment to peace as he believed they should use their power to gain wealth through the faith of millions. Using the Force to immobilize Drooz, Windu disarmed him and vowed that he would never hurt anyone else. However, Myr intervened by ordering Windu to lower his lightsaber. While she understood her apprentice's frustrations, Myr believed that Drooz's punishment should be decided in a court of law.<sup>[4]</sup>

Invasion of Naboo

*"There's no doubt the mysterious warrior was a Sith."*  
*"Always two, there are. No more, no less. A master and an apprentice."*  
*"But which was destroyed, the master or the apprentice?"*  
—Mace Windu and Yoda, on the return of the Sith

Approximately ten years before the **Clone Wars**, the **Trade Federation** initiated a **blockade** of the planet **Naboo**. At the request of **Supreme Chancellor Finis Valorum**, the Jedi Council ordered **Qui-Gon Jinn** and his apprentice, **Obi-Wan Kenobi**, to settle the dispute as emissaries of the chancellor. Upon returning from their failed mission, the Council was made aware of a far greater threat, the ancient enemy of the Jedi—the **Sith**—had returned.<sup>[6]</sup>

Mace Windu served on the Jedi High Council during the final years of the Galactic Republic. However, neither Mace Windu or **Ki-Adi-Mundi** were particularly convinced that the Jedi Order's ancient nemesis could have returned, much less avoid the awareness of the Jedi Council. Nevertheless, Windu assured them that the full resources of the Order would be utilized to verify the truth of Jinn's claims—and more specifically, the identity of the **dark warrior** who **attacked** him on **Tatooine**. It was then that Jinn revealed another significant discovery that he made during the course of his mission. Prior to his departure from Tatooine and subsequent return to Coruscant, Jinn encountered **Anakin Skywalker**. Unknown to the Jedi, the **slave Shmi Skywalker** had given **birth** to a son who was exceptionally powerful with the Force; because of Anakin's inherent potential and the circumstances surrounding his birth, Jinn believed Anakin could have been conceived by the **midi-chlorians**.<sup>[6]</sup>

Windu knew that Jinn referred to the Jedi prophecy of the **Chosen One**—The One who would restore balance to the Force<sup>[6]</sup> by destroying the Sith.<sup>[13]</sup> Although Skywalker possessed the highest concentration of midi-chlorians in his **cells**, Windu was skeptical of Jinn's claims, but nonetheless agreed to meet the boy in the Council's **chamber** where they would evaluate his aptitude with the Force. The Council was impressed by Skywalker's ability to use the Force without any formal training, but they also sensed his emotional attachment to his **mother** and a great amount of fear within him. As such, they declined Jinn's request to have him trained in the Jedi arts.<sup>[6]</sup> Windu personally felt that Skywalker was too old to commit his life to the **Jedi Code**, as well as the Force, without the distraction of his emotional attachments.<sup>[2]</sup>

The Council soon reversed its decision after Jinn's **death** during the **Battle of Naboo**, entrusting Skywalker's training to the newly-anointed Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi.<sup>[6]</sup> Windu continued to doubt Skywalker's ability to commit himself to the Jedi way, however, and his ill-concealed distrust would put a strain on their relationship throughout the years as Skywalker ascended the ranks of the Jedi Order.<sup>[2]</sup> During the **funeral of Qui-Gon Jinn**, **Grand Master Yoda** and Windu realized that Jinn had been correct; the Sith had indeed survived and endured over the last millennium. Yoda quoted the **Rule of Two**, an ancient Sith philosophy that limited their ranks to two **Sith Lords**—a **master** and an **apprentice**—causing Windu to ponder over which of the two was defeated by Kenobi. Afterward, he attended the victory celebration on Naboo along with Yoda, several members of the Jedi Council, and the newly-elected Supreme Chancellor **Sheev Palpatine**.<sup>[6]</sup>

Training Skywalker

*"Remember, Obi-Wan. If the prophecy is true, your apprentice is the only one who can bring the Force back into balance."*  
—Mace Windu, to Obi-Wan Kenobi

The training of Anakin Skywalker drew the attention of his peers, Padawans and Jedi Masters alike, as well as Chancellor Palpatine, during his first three years as Kenobi's apprentice. He especially took an interest in **lightsaber combat**, as noted by Palpatine, although Windu was more focused on the **training droid**—mimicking the appearance and fighting style of Darth Maul—that Skywalker sparred with. Neither Windu or Kenobi had expected to see Skywalker duel with the visage of Maul, but the act served to impress Palpatine.<sup>[14]</sup>

However, Kenobi was forced to intervene after Skywalker used the Force to take the lightsabers of two nearby apprentices, having overheard them mocking him for being a "slave to his emotions." Windu observed the incident as an example of how Skywalker was a complicated case for the Jedi, given the fact that he joined the Order far later than any of his contemporaries. After mentioning that Skywalker's training was an extremely difficult task for Kenobi, Windu politely declined the chancellor's offer to help guide the young Jedi. However, Palpatine claimed that as the Jedi were under the jurisdiction of the Senate, by extension they also reported to the Senate's chancellor. After considering Palpatine's line of reasoning, Windu agreed to send Skywalker to speak with the chancellor.<sup>[14]</sup>

Windu, Palpatine, and Kenobi would keep a close eye on Skywalker over the years as he trained to become a Jedi Knight.

In the days leading up to the start of the Clone Wars, the High Council was confident that Skywalker was ready to be given a mission of his own for the first time. By then, Windu regarded him as an exceptionally skilled Jedi, but Kenobi was concerned that his Padawan's abilities led him to become arrogant and therefore had much to learn. Yoda concurred with Kenobi, but also felt that Skywalker was not an isolated case. In his assessment, other Jedi had grown overconfident in their skills as well. At this, Windu told Kenobi to keep the prophecy in mind, for if Skywalker was indeed the Chosen One then only he could bring the Force back into a state of balance.<sup>[5]</sup>

Clone Wars

Prelude to war

*"You must realize there aren't enough Jedi to protect the Republic. We are keepers of the peace, not soldiers."*  
—Mace Windu, to Sheev Palpatine

Windu warned Palpatine that the Jedi Order alone could not protect the Republic in the event of war.

In the [decade](#) that followed the Battle of Naboo, the Galactic Republic faced an [existential crisis](#) as thousands of [star systems](#) and powerful corporations threatened to secede from the ancient [democratic](#) union. Chancellor Palpatine assured the Jedi Council that his office was seeking a peaceful resolution with the Separatists, and that he would not permit secession to divide the millennium-old Republic. Despite the Chancellor's assurances, Mace Windu advised him to consider just how vulnerable the Republic truly was—the Jedi Order lacked the sufficient manpower to defend the entire Republic in the event of war. Moreover, the Order was a force of peacekeepers rather than [soldiers](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

As the [Galactic Senate](#) continued to debate over whether to vote for or against the proposed [Military Creation Act](#), [Senator Padmé Amidala](#) narrowly avoided an [assassination](#) attempt on her life. During a meeting with the Chancellor, she revealed to Windu and Yoda her suspicion that [Count Dooku](#) was involved in the attack. Although Dooku had renounced his Jedi status before becoming the leader of the Separatist

movement, Windu refused to believe that even a former Jedi could be involved in a plot to assassinate the Naboo senator—or anyone for that matter. Nevertheless, Windu heeded Yoda and Palpatine's warning that Amidala's life was in grave danger, regardless of whether Dooku was personally involved or not. As such, he dispatched Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker to serve as temporary [bodyguards](#) for the senator. After the death of Amidala's would-be assassin, [Zam Wesell](#), Windu and the Council instructed Kenobi to track Wesell's accomplice who evaded capture. They also ordered Skywalker to accompany Amidala to her [home planet](#) of Naboo in case of another assassination attempt against her.<sup>[5]</sup>

While the Separatist Crisis worsened, Windu concurred with Yoda's belief that the [dark side of the Force](#) was responsible for the turmoil that undermined galactic peace and stability.<sup>[2]</sup> They were especially disturbed to learn that Kenobi's investigation led him to the planet [Kamino](#) where their [agent](#) discovered the existence of a secret [army](#)—hundreds of thousands of [clone troopers](#), in addition to a million more units in development. [Prime Minister Lama Su](#), the leader of the [Kaminoan cloners](#), revealed that the army was made to serve the Galactic Republic. He also asserted that the client who commissioned the project was the late Jedi Master [Sifo-Dyas](#), whom he presumed was alive and a leading member of the Jedi Council until Kenobi corrected his assumption.<sup>[5]</sup>

Kenobi followed the [source](#) of the clone army, the [bounty hunter Jango Fett](#), to the planet [Geonosis](#) where he reported another discovery to Windu and Yoda, both of whom witnessed his transmission in the [Chancellor's office](#). Dooku and the [Separatist Council](#) had no intention of negotiating a peaceful solution with the Republic; they merely stalled for [time](#) in order to construct [a massive army of battle droids](#) for one purpose—to make war on the Republic. After the Senate voted to empower Chancellor Palpatine with emergency wartime powers, which he quickly used to authorize the formation of the [Grand Army of the Republic](#), Windu led a [Jedi assault team](#) to Geonosis in order to rescue Kenobi while Yoda moved to take command of the clone troopers on Kamino.<sup>[5]</sup>

Kenobi's discovery of the clone army confounded Windu and Yoda.

Battle of Geonosis

*"This party's over."*  
—Mace Windu, confronting Count Dooku on Geonosis

Windu and the Jedi prevented the execution of Kenobi, as well as Skywalker and Amidala, both of whom traveled to Geonosis with the intention to help Kenobi, but were quickly confronted by an overwhelming force of battle [droids](#).<sup>[5]</sup> The Jedi fought bravely,<sup>[2]</sup> destroying many battle droids in the process, but also sustained a large number of casualties. During the fight, Windu swiftly killed Jango Fett with relative ease, decapitating the [bounty hunter](#) as [Boba Fett](#)—a clone whom Jango regarded as a son—watched in horror.<sup>[5]</sup> Overwhelmed by the droids' superior numbers, the Jedi were cornered into the center of the [Geonosian Petranaki arena](#). Dooku demanded that the Jedi surrender themselves into Separatist custody, but Windu refused to allow himself and his allies to be taken as prisoners of war. Moments later, the arrival of Yoda and the clone army ultimately turned the tide and enabled the Jedi survivors to escape the arena.<sup>[5]</sup>

By confronting the Jedi Order's champion in battle, Jango Fett literally lost his head.

In the aftermath of the arena skirmish, the [Battle of Geonosis](#) officially commenced as thousands of clone troopers engaged the battle droids on the field of war. The remaining members of Windu's assault team took to the field as well, assuming command of the clones who were trained to serve the Jedi with absolute loyalty. Reporting directly to Windu, [Clone Commander CT-411](#), "Ponds", and five special [commando](#) units accompanied the legendary Jedi champion to the forefront of the battle.<sup>[5]</sup> Windu kept Ponds by his side during the rest of the battle.<sup>[15]</sup> Under the Jedi's leadership, the clone army forced the Separatists into full retreat, abandoning Geonosis to Republic

occupation. Windu returned to the [capital](#), content that the first battle resulted in a Republic victory, but was also morose over the failure to capture Dooku.<sup>[5]</sup> By then Windu came to accept that he had been wrong in his preconception of Dooku's character; his old friend had turned to the dark side, becoming an enemy of both the Order and the Republic.<sup>[2]</sup>

The formation of the [Confederacy of Independent Systems](#) shattered a thousand years of peace that once defined the Jedi Order's role in the galaxy. In order to preserve and defend the Galactic Republic, Windu and his fellow Jedi accepted formal command of the clone army as [generals](#) and [commanders](#). He also learned from Kenobi about Dooku's assertion that a mysterious Sith [Lord](#) by the name of [Darth Sidious](#) had hundreds of senators under his control, but Yoda believed that the Council had no incentive to trust the word of a fallen Jedi. Windu nonetheless recommended that the Council maintain a watchful eye on the Senate,<sup>[5]</sup> having never trusted the highly corrupt government in the first place.<sup>[2]</sup> As the clone troopers and their Jedi leaders prepared for war, Yoda expressed his sadness to Windu and Kenobi, declaring that the shroud of darkness had descended upon the galaxy—now engulfed by the Clone Wars, the first galactic-scale conflict since the formation of the Republic.<sup>[5]</sup>

During the Battle of Geonosis, Windu and the other Jedi took command of the Republic clone army.

Mission to Hissrich

*"You will lead a small unit to monitor the Separatists' and determine what their purpose is. Due to the clandestine nature of this mission and our thinly stretched resources, we cannot offer you a clone squadron for support."*  
*"The Jedi have trained our whole lives for missions like this. We will make do."*  
—Plo Koon and Mace Windu

Even in the early days of the Clone Wars, the High Council saw their situation as dire. With the Separatist army establishing multiple footholds throughout the Outer Rim, Windu was concerned that it would only be a matter of time before they moved inward, annexing more star systems before ultimately reaching the galactic capital of Coruscant. Seeking to ascertain the purpose of the Separatist presence on the planet [Hissrich](#), the Council assigned the task to Windu. However, because of the mission's covert purpose and the Republic's thinly spread

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|   | <p>resources, they were unable to provide him with a squadron of clone troopers. Windu therefore assembled a <a href="#">covert team</a> of Jedi, consisting of himself along with <a href="#">Kit Fisto</a>, <a href="#">Prosser Dibs</a>, and <a href="#">Rissa Mano</a>.<sup>[7]</sup></p>  |
|   | <p>Traveling to the remote planet aboard the <a href="#">T-6 shuttle</a> <i>Westwind</i>, the Jedi's arrival was ultimately detected by <a href="#">AD-W4</a>, a <a href="#">mercenary</a> droid hired by General Grievous to oversee the Separatist occupation of Hissrich.<sup>[7]</sup> After encountering members of Hissrich's <a href="#">indigenous population</a>, Windu and Fisto followed them into a system of <a href="#">caverns</a> and although they could not speak the <a href="#">aliens'</a> language, Windu sensed that they were not hostile to the Jedi. The aliens led Windu and his team to their subterranean dwellings, at which point the Separatists attacked the Jedi after tracking their position to the alien settlement.<sup>[16]</sup></p>   |
| During the early period of the Clone Wars, Windu led a Jedi covert team to Hissrich at the request of the High Council. | <p>Windu ordered the other Jedi to protect the civilians while he fended off a group of <a href="#">droidekas</a>. After dispatching the destroyers, he was confronted by AD-W4, who confronted the Jedi Master in single combat. As they fought, both combatants criticized their opponent's motivations; Windu regarded the droid's greed as a sign of depravity, whereas AD-W4 viewed the Jedi's beliefs—in particular, their commitment to peace—as asinine. During the fighting, the Jedi realized that the droids were mining the planet for its energy resources, the amount of which could turn the war in the Separatists' favor. Ultimately, a cave in separated the team in half, with Windu and Mano on the surface, while Fisto and Dibs were trapped below.<sup>[16]</sup></p>   |
|   | <p>Together, Windu and Mano defeated the droids on the surface and succeeded in destroying one of the Separatist <a href="#">harvesters</a>. Afterward, they returned to their ship to regroup with Fisto and Dibs. At that point, Windu had determined that it would not be possible for his team to put an end to the Separatist operation one skirmish at a time, and therefore desired to locate the enemy's command center in order to bring the conflict on Hissrich to a swift and decisive conclusion.<sup>[17]</sup></p>  |
| Rebellion in the ranks  | <p><i>"I have failed you, Prosser. I was to be your shepherd, and you have strayed too far from the path. All of these bold accusations, all of these grand inquisitions. If you think you know better than I what is good for the Jedi, what is good for the galaxy—Then come! Test your resolve against mine. Let us find out who is right."</i></p> <p>—Mace Windu, to Prosser Dibs</p>   |
|   | <p>The Jedi's mission on Hissrich was interrupted by a fallout that occurred between two of its members. Dibs confronted Windu soon after returning to the <i>Westwind</i> with Fisto; his doubts about their military role and the loss of multiple natives led him to lose faith in the Order and the High Council. Shouting at his fellow Jedi Master, Dibs made several accusations against both Windu and the Council, ranging from callousness towards collateral damage to distorting the Jedi doctrine. He then physically assaulted Windu, causing the High Council member to chastise Dibs for attacking his general.<sup>[17]</sup></p> <p>After defeating Prosser Dibs, Windu decided that he would hand him over to the High Council to stand trial.</p>  |
|   | <p>Although Windu denied the accusations and sympathized with Dibs' frustrations, the latter remained unconvinced and ignited his lightsaber, intending to take Windu's life. Realizing that Dibs would not back down, Windu declared that he had failed in his responsibility to keep Dibs on the Jedi path. He then accepted Dibs' challenge by igniting his own lightsaber.<sup>[17]</sup> Yet even as they fought, Windu beseeched Dibs to cease his attack by reminding him that they were essentially brothers in the sense that they were both chosen to walk the path of the Jedi. Despite Dibs' resolve to kill Windu, he was ultimately bested and disarmed by the Jedi champion.<sup>[4]</sup></p>  |
|   | <p>The ordeal served to remind Windu of his mission on Mathas years prior to the Clone Wars, in which he was tempted to take the life of the false prophet Drooz. Recalling his past experience with deciding another person's fate, Windu decided to arrest Dibs and to leave his punishment to the will of the High Council. After securing Dibs on the <i>Westwind</i>, the remaining Jedi proceeded to bring their mission to an end by attacking the AD-W4's headquarters. Although his own faith was tested during the duel, Dibs' accusations ultimately strengthened Windu's resolve and his belief that the Jedi Order existed to protect people from the malevolence of the dark side.<sup>[4]</sup></p>   |
| Showdown on Hissrich  | <p><i>"My righteousness is anything but self-motivated. There is definitive right and there is wrong. Good and evil."</i></p> <p>—Mace Windu, to AD-W4</p>   |
| Windu fought AD-W4 in single combat and ultimately destroyed the droid mercenary.                                       | <p>While Fisto created a distraction by confronting the battle droids, his comrades executed their respective parts of the mission, with Mano infiltrating a <a href="#">Separatist supply ship</a> and Windu challenging AD-W4 to single combat. As they fought, the droid mercenary attempted to bait Windu by accusing him of hypocrisy as well as secretly enjoying his newfound authority as a general in the Grand Army of the Republic. Although it briefly overpowered the Jedi Master, Windu ultimately prevailed using both his Force powers and lightsaber to defeat AD-W4. He also rejected its claims against him, asserting that his virtues were influenced by altruism and the concept of right versus wrong.<sup>[18]</sup></p> <p>AD-W4 was confident that its mission was a success in spite of the Jedi's efforts to prevent the Separatists from gaining a valuable energy source that could fuel their war effort against the Republic. However, Windu had anticipated the supply ship's purpose and instructed Mano to destroy it; the young Jedi Knight succeeded in her task—destroying the ship along with its flora samples—and moved to assist Fisto against the remaining droids in accordance with Windu's orders. Having failed in its mission, AD-W4 attempted to escape by disconnecting its head from its disabled body. The effort was in vain as Windu used the Force to cause the head to explode, destroying AD-W4 and ending the Separatist operation on Hissrich.<sup>[18]</sup></p> |
|   | <p>Returning to the Jedi Temple on Coruscant, Windu provided a report on the success of his team's mission to the High Council. The leaders of the Jedi Order decided to send a force of clone troopers to Hissrich, both to eliminate the remaining droids and provide aid to the planet's indigenous population. In addition to their plans for replanting and reconstruction on Hissrich, Yoda announced that they would study samples of the flora in order to learn more about its properties. The next item on their agenda was the trial of Prosser Dibs, who remained under arrest as a result of his conduct during the Hissrich operation. Dibs, who turned against his team and attacked Windu—a Jedi Master as well as a general in the Republic military—stood before the leaders of the Jedi Order accused of heresy and insubordination. He was ultimately found guilty on both charges, including <a href="#">treason</a>, but although Dibs expected to be put to death, Windu implored his colleagues to be merciful.<sup>[18]</sup></p>   |
|   | <p>Windu, who harbored his own reservations against the Jedi's new military responsibilities,<sup>[7]</sup> sympathized with Dibs' frustrations. In Windu's view, Dibs did not deserve to be faulted for feeling anger and confusion, both of which Windu regarded as valid emotions under the circumstances of war. As such, he believed that the Jedi had a duty to help rehabilitate the members of the Order who strayed from the light. Although Dibs continued to doubt Windu's sincerity, Windu requested for the prisoner to be placed on probation, confined to work in the <a href="#">Jedi Archives</a> where he hoped Dibs would reevaluate his opinions. After the trial, Windu confessed to Mano his hope for reconciliation between Dibs and the Council, having sensed that the Order would need every Jedi as they faced their greatest challenge yet—a long war filled with trials and hardships. While he continued to yearn for a quick end to the fighting, Windu felt that it was not an attainable goal at the</p>  |

moment. The best that the Jedi Order could do, he believed, was to keep faith in the Force and stand in defense of not only the citizens of the Republic, but all peoples of the galaxy.<sup>[18]</sup>

Rescue of Rotta

After the events on Hissrich, Windu confided in Mano his concern for Dibs and the future of the Jedi Order.

*"This is the opportunity we've been looking for. The Jedi must rescue Jabba's son."*

*"Hmm... I don't like it—dealing with that criminal scum. This is a dark day for the Republic."*

—Sheev Palpatine and Mace Windu, on a potential alliance with Jabba Desilijic Tiure

General Windu's forays onto the battlefield were a reminder of his reputation as a renowned warrior.

As a senior member of the Jedi Council, Mace Windu directed the Republic war effort from the Jedi Temple on Coruscant,<sup>[2]</sup> often conferring with Grand Master Yoda and Supreme Chancellor Palpatine on matters of strategy and diplomacy.<sup>[19]</sup> However, on occasion he also took to the field, commanding clone troopers and Jedi on several military campaigns<sup>[2]</sup> with Commander Ponds as his second-in-command.<sup>[20]</sup> Windu's exploits on the battlefield served as a reminder of his reputation as a fierce warrior and champion of the Jedi Order.<sup>[2]</sup>

During the early phase of the war, **Rotta**—the **Huttlet** son of **Jabba Desilijic Tiure**—was "Huttnapped"<sup>[21]</sup> by the Separatists,<sup>[19]</sup> who conspired to discredit the Jedi Knights in order to prevent a potential alliance between the Republic and the **Hutt Clan**.<sup>[21]</sup> In response to Rotta's abduction, Jabba issued a general distress call to anyone who was willing to rescue his son. Although Palpatine was quick to use this turn of events in the Republic's favor, Windu urged the chancellor to proceed with caution, believing there was more to the Huttlet's abduction than what was apparent. He also informed the chancellor that, because of the Separatist general **Grievous**, Republic forces were stretched too thin to send a large number of Jedi on a rescue mission. Due to Palpatine's insistence that the Republic clone army needed to gain safe passage through the **Outer Rim Hyperspace routes** in **Hutt Space**, Windu agreed to assign the mission to Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker since both Jedi Knights were now available after **liberating** the planet **Christophsis** from Separatist occupation.<sup>[19]</sup>

Soon afterward Windu received a message from the **Advanced Recon Force troopers** who tracked Rotta's location to an **old monastery** on the planet **Teth**. Due to the monastery's heavy fortification, Windu instructed the troopers to stand by and await Republic reinforcements. He then reassigned three of **Admiral Wurtz's cruisers** to the rescue operation. In spite of Count Dooku's plot to form an alliance between the Confederacy and the Hutt Clan, Rotta was ultimately redeemed from captivity by Anakin Skywalker and his new Padawan, **Ahsoka Tano**. The Separatists were **defeated** on Teth and Jabba was made aware of Dooku's conspiracy, which in turn allowed the Republic to secure passage through the **Hyperspace** lanes in Hutt territory.<sup>[19]</sup>

Liberation of Ryloth

At the chancellor's request, Windu dispatched Kenobi and Skywalker on a mission to save Jabba's son.

*"General Windu! Perhaps we can come to a compromise."*

*"Not when I hold all the cards."*

—Wat Tambor and Mace Windu

Following the Separatist invasion of the planet **Ryloth**, the Jedi generals Windu, Kenobi and Yoda asked Senator **Bail Organa** to negotiate with King **Katuunko** of **Toydaria**, hoping to gain his planet's support as a staging area for the delivery of relief supplies to the **Twi'lek** people.<sup>[22]</sup> General Windu personally oversaw the **campaign** to retake the Twi'lek **homeworld**. In response to the Republic's imminent counterattack, **Wat Tambor**—**foreman** of the **Techno Union** and Separatist **emir** of Ryloth—ordered the **Separatist navy** to form a **blockade** around the planet. As such, Windu entrusted Skywalker and Tano with the responsibility of breaking through the blockade in order to clear a path for the rest of the Republic invasion force. After some difficulty, Master and Padawan succeeded in their task, allowing Windu and Kenobi to commence with the landing of their ground forces on Ryloth.<sup>[23]</sup>

Jedi Generals Windu and Kenobi played leading roles in the Ryloth campaign.

In order to establish a foothold on Ryloth, Windu instructed Kenobi to lead a **detachment** of the **212th Attack Battalion** on a mission to secure the landing area near the **city** of **Nabat**. On Tambor's orders, however, the Separatist battle droids used the local Twi'lek population as living shields to protect their **proton cannons**. Despite the danger that the **cannons** posed to the **Republic Navy**, Windu informed Kenobi that freeing the hostages was a mission priority. After the success of Kenobi's assignment, Windu and his forces landed on the surface of Ryloth and proceeded with the final phase of the campaign—the liberation of the planetary capital city, **Lessu**.<sup>[24]</sup>

The liberation of Ryloth moved apace, but the march to the capital was perilous. After sustaining casualties and damage to his **All Terrain Tactical Enforcers**, Windu decided to enlist the aid of **Cham Syndulla**, the leader of the **local resistance** against Separatist occupation. Syndulla was hesitant to align his cause with that of the Republic, fearing Ryloth would only trade one oppressing force for another. Yet the suffering of his people compelled him to communicate with Ryloth's own senator, **Orn Free Taa**.<sup>[25]</sup> Windu long detested politics, but was nonetheless a capable diplomat.<sup>[2]</sup> His skills as a mediator enabled him to guide the corpulent politician and the freedom fighter to a compromise—Taa vowed that the clone army would withdraw from Ryloth after the remaining Separatists were driven away. In return, Syndulla promised to not use his popularity with the people to seize power from Ryloth's democratically-elected senator.<sup>[25]</sup>

The combined forces of Republic clone troopers and Twi'lek freedom fighters laid siege to Lessu, which Tambor was in the process of evacuating, but not without confiscating much of Ryloth's wealth. The attack on the capital was led by both Syndulla and Windu, until the latter broke off from the main fighting in order to prevent Tambor's escape. As a result of the emir's delayed departure, Tambor was left stranded on Ryloth, allowing Windu to capture him at saber-point. Several Separatist **bombers** made a last ditch attempt to bombard the capital, but their efforts ended in failure as Skywalker and Tano narrowly intercepted and destroyed the enemy **starfighters** in their respective **Delta-7 Aethersprite-class light interceptors**.<sup>[25]</sup>

With the liberation of Lessu and the capture of the **Skakoan** emir, the campaign concluded in victory for both the Republic and Ryloth. Many Twi'leks gathered in the capital to celebrate their renewed liberty as clone troopers and freedom fighters marched through the city in a triumphant parade. General Windu and Commander Ponds attended the event, as did Syndulla and Senator Taa.<sup>[25]</sup>

With victory on Ryloth, Windu attended the parade held to celebrate the liberation of the Twi'lek homeworld.

Holocron theft

*"You will take us to the holocron... And you will take us now."*

—Anakin Skywalker, Mace Windu and Obi-Wan Kenobi, using the Force to break Cad Bane's resolve

In the aftermath of the **Confederate victory** on the planet **Felucia**, Windu and the Jedi Council reprimanded Tano for her failure to immediately comply with the order to withdraw from the battle. As punishment, they temporarily reassigned her to serve as a guard in the **Jedi Archives** of the Temple. When Tano asked how long she would be on guard duty, Windu coldly responded by extending the punishment. Shortly afterward, Windu and Yoda discovered that the Temple had been infiltrated by thieves—unknown to the Jedi, Darth Sidious hired the

http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/Mace\_Windu

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bounty hunter [Cad Bane](#) for an assignment to steal one of the Order's [holocrons](#). As Kenobi and Skywalker hunted the intruders, Bane sacrificed his droid, [Todo 360](#), by sending it to the [communication center](#) as a bomb. Before the droid could detonate, Windu [Force pushed](#) Todo into the ventilation system where it exploded. The distraction worked to Bane's advantage, allowing the [mercenary](#) to escape the Temple with a holocron. However, Tano managed to apprehend his partner, [Cato Parasitti](#), who revealed to Windu and the other Jedi that Bane's next target was [Bolla Ropal](#), the keeper of the [Kyber memory crystal](#). Windu deduced the true nature of the theft—the holocron that Bane stole could be used to access the [crystal's](#) data, which contained the names and locations of all known Force-sensitive [children](#) in the galaxy. With the future of the Jedi Order in jeopardy, the Council dispatched Kenobi to hunt Bane while Skywalker and Tano traveled to the [Devaron system](#) to find Ropal.<sup>[26]</sup>

Todo 360 entered the communication center where he briefly encountered several Jedi Knights, including Yoda and Windu.

Skywalker and Tano were unsuccessful in their mission to thwart Bane's theft of the crystal. Knowing that the bounty hunter's next move the Jedi switched to a new tactic—**meditation**. Windu, Yoda, Kenobi and Skywalker searched through the Force, seeking to identify the children the Force guided the Jedi to the planets **Rodia** and Naboo. Kenobi failed to prevent the abduction of the **Rodian** infant **Wee Dunn**, however the Bane was taken into Jedi custody by Skywalker and Tano. Windu personally conducted Bane's interrogation, although initially without fear of his client outweighed his fear of the Jedi Order. At Tano's suggestion, Windu, Kenobi and Skywalker simultaneously performed the **mind** of permanently damaging Bane's mind in the process, the Jedi felt that he had given them no other recourse except to force his compliance. The process proved too painful for Bane, who finally relented to the Jedi's demands.<sup>[27]</sup>

Bane brought Windu, Kenobi and Clone Commander [CC-2224](#) to [Black Stall Station](#) where the holocron was kept. The Jedi inadvertently trigger the station's defense [turrets](#), however, allowing Bane to leave the [space station](#) in an [escape pod](#) while Windu and Kenobi defended themselves. Both Jedi Masters ultimately survived the trap and escaped with the holocron just prior to the station's destruction. Simultaneously, Skywalker and Tano tracked the missing infants to the planet [Mustafar](#) and were able to rescue them all before they could be used in the schemes of the [Dark Lord of the Sith](#).<sup>[27]</sup>

## Battle of Malastare

Bane led Windu and Kenobi to the holocron and a trap.

*"I have a bad feeling about this."*  
—Mace Windu

When the Separatists invaded the planet **Malastare**, homeworld of the **Dug** species, Windu again took to the field commanding Republic forces with the assistance of Commander Ponds and General Skywalker. Preventing the Separatist conquest of Malastare was not their only objective; the Republic sought to gain access to **Malastarian fuel**. **Doge Nakha Urus**, leader of Malastare, agreed to sign a treaty of trade between the Republic and Malastare, provided that the Separatists were first driven off of Malastarian soil by Windu's forces. However, the Republic soon found itself heavily outnumbered upon confronting the Separatist invasion force on the open field of battle.<sup>[28]</sup>

Windu and his forces discovered the Zillo Beast shortly after the Battle of Malastare.

Despite this, the Republic had a backup plan—the [electro-proton bomb](#), developed by the Republic [scientist Doctor Sionver Boll](#), was designed to neutralize a specific target: the Separatist battle droids. The doctor assured Windu and Chancellor Palpatine—who communicated with Republic forces via [hologram](#)—that the bomb posed no threat to organic-based units, such as clone troopers and the Chancellor's approval, but did little to assuage Windu's concerns. Although the Jedi Master proposed to seek an alternative solution, the bomb's detonation, the immediate blast incinerated the droids that were closest to the explosion. The subsequent discharge of [EMP radiation](#) along with every form of machinery within proximity of the overall blast.<sup>[28]</sup>

Though the experimental bomb succeeded in neutralizing the entire Separatist invasion force in one fell swoop, the surface began to collapse as a result of the explosion, creating a massive sinkhole that began at ground zero and expanded in every direction. A rescue operation soon commenced in order to search for the Republic troops who fell into the sinkhole. After losing communication with the rescue party, Windu and Ponds led a team to ascertain the fate of the survivors. Their investigation ultimately led them to discovering the [Zillo Beast](#)—an ancient creature native to Malastare, its species was long believed to be extinct by the Dug population. The beast, awoken by the bomb, chased after Windu and his troops until Skywalker created a distraction by flying maneuvers around it in his Jedi [starfighter](#).<sup>[28]</sup>

After escaping from the sinkhole, Windu regrouped with Skywalker and Urus in order to develop a strategy to neutralize the Zillo Beast. The Malastarian doge was adamant that the creature (which he regarded as a "dangerous bloodthirsty monster") should be destroyed—a plan which Palpatine supported in order to ensure the Dugs' cooperation with the Republic's needs for Malastare's **fuel**. Windu strongly objected on the ground of Jedi morality, however. Due to the possibility that the beast could be the last of its species, the Jedi Master was determined to preserve its life. His value for life ultimately conflicted with Urus' insistence on the creature's extermination. Urus went ahead with his plan upon discovering the harmful effects that Malastarian gas had on the Zillo Beast, prompting Windu to intercede in defense of the creature's life by threatening the doge with **his lightsaber**.<sup>[28]</sup>

The situation was ultimately resolved when a group of Republic [stun cannon tanks](#) concentrated their fire on the Zillo Beast and, as a result, incapacitated the creature. The Dugs believed that the beast was finally dead when in fact the [stun cannons](#) merely rendered it unconscious—long enough for Republic forces to transport the Zillo Beast to Coruscant for [scientific](#) research. Though the [Dug Council](#) formally ratified Malastare's treaty with the Republic,<sup>[28]</sup> Windu made no effort to conceal his disapproval of Palpatine's decision to bring the dangerous beast to the galactic capital—a move that the Jedi Master regarded as folly on the Chancellor's part.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Zillo Beast incident

*"With respect, Chancellor, I believe this creature could pose any number of dangers. Bringing it here to Coruscant is a mistake."*  
—Mace Windu, to Sheev Palpatine

Windu returned to Coruscant with the sedated Zillo Beast in tow. As the clone army transported the beast to the [Republic Science and Technical Center](#), Windu again expressed his disapproval of Palpatine's decision to move a dangerous creature to the capital. By then, however, it was clear to him that the Chancellor would not listen to the Jedi Master's counsel on this matter. Palpatine claimed that the research conducted on the Zillo Beast would be beneficial to the Republic war effort, although his reassurance did little to alleviate Windu's concerns about the safety of Coruscant. At Kenobi's suggestion, the Jedi turned to Senator Padmé Amidala in the hopes that she would have more success in reasoning with the Chancellor.<sup>[29]</sup>

Shortly after its arrival, however, the Zillo Beast **escaped** from its confinement and proceeded to rampage through the cityscape of the galactic capital. Windu and the other Jedi mobilized Republic forces in order to prevent the beast from causing more damage and casualties on Coruscant. Palpatine, who had ordered the beast's destruction, was caught in its path while attempting to evacuate the **Senate Office Building**. Windu and the Jedi consequently focused their efforts on saving the Chancellor's life, which ultimately led to the death of the Zillo Beast when Palpatine ordered the Republic **gunships** to fire Malastarian **gas bombs** on it.<sup>[29]</sup>

## Senate conspiracy



Attack on the Temple

*"It is the Council's opinion that Padawan Ahsoka Tano has committed sedition against the Republic, and thus she will be expelled from the Jedi Order."*

—Mace Windu, pronouncing the Council's decision to expel Ahsoka Tano

Following a [terrorist explosion](#) in a [hangar](#) of the Jedi Temple, the Council recalled Skywalker and his apprentice to Coruscant. After briefing the two Jedi on the situation, Windu and Yoda assigned them to oversee the Jedi Order's internal investigation. In addition, they suspected that the attack was caused by a rogue Jedi. As neither Skywalker or Tano were present at the time of the bombing, Windu and the Grand Master considered them above suspicion and therefore suited to the task. During the investigation, Skywalker and Tano reported directly to Windu, who informed them that a swift conclusion to the case was imperative as rumors began to circulate within the Senate that the [military police](#) could become involved. With the arrest of [Letta Turmond](#), Windu and Yoda concluded that the<sup>[40]</sup> radical<sup>[41]</sup> [Coruscanti](#) was the main culprit in the bombing of the Temple hangar. While there was no indication at the time of a Jedi's involvement, the incident served to fuel [anti-Jedi sentiment](#) among the Republic citizenry—an outcome that concerned Windu.<sup>[40]</sup>

In the aftermath of Turmond's arrest, Windu attended a [funeral ceremony](#) to honor the six Jedi Knights who were killed in the hangar blast. Shortly thereafter, Skywalker's Padawan came under suspicion of being the true mastermind behind the bombing after Turmond was Force-choked to death in her presence.<sup>[42]</sup> [Admiral Wilhuff Tarkin](#) contacted the Council and claimed that Tano had not only murdered Turmond, but also several clone troopers during her [escape](#) from the [Republic Center for Military Operations](#). The Council endeavored to apprehend the fugitive Padawan, although Windu was concerned by Yoda's decision to send Skywalker after his own apprentice, believing that his emotional connection to Tano would complicate the mission.<sup>[43]</sup>

The hunt for Tano led to her [capture](#) and subsequent confinement in the Jedi Temple. As the Council debated on what to do with her, Tarkin contacted them on the Senate's behalf, imploring the Jedi leadership to expel Tano and surrender her to military custody.<sup>[44]</sup> Windu was troubled<sup>[45]</sup> by the Council's options in the matter—to either stand by Tano, as Kenobi insisted; or remove her from the ranks of the Order as the Senate commanded.<sup>[44]</sup> Ultimately, Windu concurred with Tarkin on the grounds that failing to submit Tano for trial could be regarded as an act of opposition to the Senate.<sup>[45]</sup> At Yoda's behest, the young Padawan was taken to the [Chamber of Judgment](#), where five members of the Council, including Windu, reviewed the charges against her and asked for her plea. Tano pleaded innocent and insisted that the Council was being deceived; but as she was unable to confirm the identity of the true perpetrator, Windu announced the Council's decision to revoke Tano's Jedi status and hand her over to the military custody of the Republic.<sup>[44]</sup>

After the expulsion was completed, Windu attended Tano's [military trial](#) alongside several other members of the Council. Before the verdict could be read, however, Skywalker burst in and revealed the real traitor, [Barriss Offee](#), who confessed to the crimes that Tano had been accused of and scathingly claimed that the Jedi were the ones responsible for the Clone War.<sup>[44]</sup>

Due to this revelation, Windu and the Council attempted to make amends with Tano. In addition to a personal apology from Skywalker, Plo Koon informed Tano that she had the Council's most humble apologies.<sup>[44]</sup> [Saesee Tiin](#), Mundi and Windu all observed Tano's ordeal as a [great trial](#) in her training, and stated that she had become a greater Jedi<sup>[45]</sup> than she would have been otherwise. But while Windu and his colleagues were prepared to accept her back into the Order with a promotion to the rank of Jedi Knight, Tano refused the offer and instead chose to leave the Temple to search for a new path.<sup>[44]</sup>

Although Windu proclaimed Tano a greater Jedi because of her ordeal, the former Padawan chose to walk away from the Jedi Order.

Mission to Bardotta

*"Jedi Master, I owe you my life."*

*"It is my privilege to serve you, Queen Julia."*

—Queen Julia and Mace Windu

Windu later [accompanied Representative Jar Jar Binks](#) to assist the [Bardottan](#) Queen [Julia](#) in finding the disappearing [Dagoyan Masters](#). However, Windu's presence was not welcome by the Queen nor the Bardottans, due to a long-standing mistrust of the Jedi by the Dagoyans. Windu also sensed that the Force was out of balance on Bardotta. However, when the queen disappeared, Windu assisted the Bardottans and Binks in their search in the catacombs belonging to the [Frangawl Cult](#). When Binks disappeared, Windu tracked him down and rescued Binks from being sacrificed. However, the Frangawl cult leader escaped with queen off-world. Binks promised the [Bahk-tov Council](#) that they would find the queen before the prophecy came to be.<sup>[46]</sup>

Windu learned from Binks that the Frangawl cult was extracting the living force from Dagoyan masters, and putting it into a sphere. He surmised that they would do same to Queen Julia. Windu then sensed the orb on [Zardossa Stix](#) where Windu sensed her in a city market square. Windu fought with several of the cultists and saved Binks from capture, then stunning one [Gundark](#) and killing another. Windu questioned the Gundarks' trainer, who told them that the mysterious "[Great Mother](#)" would deal with him. Windu and Binks took an [eopie](#) and a [dalgo](#) to help in their search, [traveling](#) to the Zardossan temple. However, Windu and Binks were then confronted by [stone guardians](#), yet Windu was able to defeat them. He soon confronted the Great Mother, who revealed herself to be the [Nightsister](#) Mother Talzin. With Binks's help, Windu was able to prevent Talzin from absorbing the sphere's power and watched as she disappeared.<sup>[47]</sup>

The truth about the Clone Army

*"Our enemy created an army for us."*

*"If this was known, public confidence in the war effort, the Jedi, and the Republic would vanish. There would be mass chaos."*

—Yoda and Mace Windu

Responding to a mysterious distress call, Master Plo Koon discovered a crashed Republic ship, and found the lightsaber of Sifo-Dyas in the wreckage. This surprised the Council, as Sifo-Dyas's lightsaber had never been found when he was killed over ten years ago. Skywalker and Kenobi were assigned to investigate, and eventually, they discovered that Sifo-Dyas had in fact been murdered by [Pyke](#) criminals on orders from Count Dooku rather than the native Felucians he had been sent long ago to negotiate with, as the Council had previously assumed. They also realized that it was Dooku who was actually responsible for the creation of the clone army.<sup>[48]</sup>

The Council was greatly disturbed by this revelation, and did not understand why their own enemy would create an army for them. Windu, however, noted with caution that such a revelation could easily destroy public confidence in the Jedi, the Republic and the war effort. At these words, Yoda decided that they would not inform anyone, even Chancellor Palpatine, of their new discovery, citing the valiant service of the clone soldiers, and the need to bring the war to a swift and decisive end. When Windu asked Yoda if he was sure they were taking the right path, Yoda asserted that it was not the right path, but the only path, stating that for now they had to continue by the Sith Lord's game.<sup>[48]</sup>

Yoda's mission



"There is great turmoil within Master Yoda."

"Yes, we all sensed it."

"For something to affect Yoda this deeply concerns me... We must keep an eye on our old friend."

"The war has taxed all of us to our limit. I suppose we're just surprised Master Yoda has one."

"I hope it's that simple, but I feel the shadow of something greater on our horizon."

—Obi-Wan Kenobi and Mace Windu, discussing their concern for Yoda

Not long afterwards, Yoda started behaving strangely, becoming noticeably distracted and thoughtful during meetings. This surprised and concerned Windu, who sensed great turmoil in Yoda. He voiced his concerns to Obi-Wan Kenobi in a private discussion, and they resolved to keep a closer watch on their old friend. Later, a noticeably uncertain Yoda revealed that he had spoken with the deceased Qui-Gon Jinn. However, everything the Jedi knew about the Force suggested that the ability to retain one's individuality after death was impossible, so the reactions from the Council ranged from concern to skepticism and suspicion. Though they meditated with Yoda for a whole day, they were unable to sense anything. After the failed meditation, Ki-Adi-Mundi suggested that what Yoda was sensing could be a deception by the Sith. Kenobi refused to believe that Yoda could be susceptible to such manipulation, but Windu replied that, even as wise and old as he was, Yoda was not beyond the corruption of the dark side. The ancient Jedi master agreed and submitted himself to medical examination.<sup>[49]</sup>

Windu and the Council were concerned about Yoda, who heard the voice of the late Qui-Gon Jinn.

Windu, Kenobi and Mundi were told by **Rig Nema** that Yoda was in perfect mental health, even though he was approaching the nine hundredth year of his life. Mundi, who was particularly skeptical of Yoda's claims, suggested the Dark Lord of the Sith could be using Yoda's connection to Dooku to manipulate him, but Kenobi vehemently rejected the idea, saying they all had been apprenticed to Yoda at one point or another. Before the discussion could go on, Nema suggested a deprivation ritual for Yoda to reach the source of the voice. During the procedure, Kenobi, Skywalker, Mundi and Plo Koon watched over the small Jedi. Yoda managed to hear Jinn's instruction to go to the Dagobah system before Kenobi noticed his vital signs were dropping too low and stopped the test.<sup>[49]</sup>

When Windu asked about the procedure, Kenobi told him that Yoda was sure he had contacted the dead. Mundi asserted that Yoda's claim was impossible, and again voiced his suspicion that Yoda was under attack by the Sith. More concerned than ever, Windu ordered temple guards to keep an eye on Yoda. However, the diminutive Jedi Master soon managed to escape with Skywalker's help and R2-D2's company, willing to go on a journey that would take him to Dagobah, a mysterious planet and Moraband, the ancient homeworld of the Sith. Immediately after Yoda's escape,<sup>[49]</sup> a furious<sup>[50]</sup> Windu confronted Skywalker, but the younger Jedi countered that, for once, none of what had occurred had been his idea.<sup>[49]</sup>

On Yoda's return to Coruscant, Windu and Kenobi greeted him, and Windu stated that the Council was eager to hear Yoda's report, but the old Jedi master claimed that there was not much to discuss. When Windu asked him if his journey had given him insight on how to win the war, Yoda told them that he was no longer certain that the Jedi could win the Clone Wars but that, through hope and perseverance, the Jedi would ultimately triumph over the Sith.<sup>[51]</sup>

Anaxes

"With our shipyards operational again, we can expect more victories on all battlefronts across the galaxy."

—Mace Windu

Later in the war, Windu lead the **91st Recon Corps** along with Skywalker and the **501st Legion** to the planet **Anaxes** which was under **attack** by Admiral **Trench**. The Separatists had gained the upper hand in the battle despite weeks of battle. At the Republic base, Windu conferred with Skywalker after the droids had over run their main production unit which indicated them losing. 501st Legion Captain Rex and 212th Attack Battalion Commander Cody arrived and Rex shared his theory on why Trench had been winning the battle that he had his algorithm and was using it to win the battle. Windu ordered them to take a small squad of troopers to go behind enemy lines to infiltrate the **cyber center**.<sup>[52]</sup>

Mace Windu led the 91st Recon Corps into battle on Anaxes.

Following **Echo's mission** from **Skako Minor**, Windu debriefed Kenobi, Skywalker, Rex and Jesse on his plan to retake the **Separatist assembly complex** by air, when Echo posed his plan to be escorted by the Bad Batch into Trench's new comm vault on a dreadnought on the planet's orbit and plug himself to feed the Separatist's strategic movements. Windu along with Kenobi, lead the assault along with the 501st Legion, 91st Mobile Reconnaissance Corps and 212th Attack Battalion attacking the complex. The battle ended with all other fronts falling to the Republic, Trench initiated a countdown for an explosion that could destroy most of Anaxes. Windu assisted with deactivating the bomb and managed to save Anaxes. Following the victory, Windu awarded Rex, Clone Force 99 and Echo with medals.<sup>[53]</sup>

The Dooku assassination attempt

"Isn't protecting the innocent the very definition of what it means to be a Jedi? We are failing the Republic and its citizens. We must stop this—now."

—Mace Windu, to the Jedi High Council

Upon witnessing a devastating Separatist **attack** on **Mahranee**, as well as the killing of many **Mahran** refugees, Mace Windu urged the Jedi Council to consider his proposal to assassinate Count Dooku. At first, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda opposed this course action, believing that such measures could draw them closer to the dark side, but Windu countered their argument by reminding them of Dooku's significance to the Separatist war effort. He also warned that unless the Jedi learned to adapt, the war and its devastating effect on the galaxy could continue indefinitely. Anakin Skywalker, who had been invited by Kenobi to attend the Council's meeting, agreed with Windu.<sup>[54]</sup>

Windu and Skywalker also pointed to the Clone War's growing number of civilian casualties, noting that many more lives would be lost as long as the conflict continued. Having considered Windu's words, including his stance on the Jedi Order's responsibility to protect the innocent, the Republic and its citizens, the Council agreed to sanction the plan. At Kenobi's suggestion, they assigned the mission to Jedi Master **Quinlan Vos**, due to his experience with covert operations. Vos, in turn recruited Dooku's former apprentice, **Asajj Ventress**. However, after becoming lovers Ventress convinced Vos to train in the ways of the dark side in order to defeat Dooku.<sup>[54]</sup>

The Jedi Council sent Asajj Ventress and Quinlan Vos on a mission to assassinate Count Dooku.

The mission ended in failure, as Dooku was able to defeat both Force-sensitive assassins, resulting in Vos' **capture** on **Raxus**. When Ventress reported directly to the Jedi Council, Windu greeted her with an arrest warrant, but was persuaded by Kenobi and Yoda to hear her account of the mission. He was particularly displeased to learn that Ventress exposed Vos to the dark side, but the former Separatist retorted by reminding Windu that he and the Council had assigned Vos the mission in the first place. When the Council decided to **rescue** Vos, Windu became exasperated by their decision to send Ventress on the mission, but reluctantly agreed to follow Yoda's plan.<sup>[54]</sup>

Although the rescue mission was a success, Windu and the Council soon grew suspicious of Vos' allegiance. After definitively concluding that Vos had secretly joined Dooku, and having considered the repercussions that could result from the fall of a Jedi Master of Vos' stature, Windu proposed that the Council consider the possibility of executing him as punishment for treason. Most of the Council was supportive of this idea, given the Order's history with other Jedi who turned to the dark side such as Barriss Offee, Pong Krell and especially Dooku, but



Although he struggled to temper his animosity for heretics and con artists, Windu expressed empathy for other people, in particular the natives of Mathas who suffered from the effects of the Niffin plague. He saw them as innocents, but was also stunned by their refusal to see Drooz as a charlatan instead of a prophet. While in pursuit of Drooz, who mocked Windu by insulting the esteem of the Jedi Order, the young Jedi almost took Drooz's life, believing he deserved to be punished for using the Jedi's own belief system to prey on the people who expressed faith in the Force.<sup>[4]</sup>

Jedi Master

*"Doubt not the ways of the Force. It tests us at times, but believe it will lead us where we are meant to be, we must. Similarly, doubt not yourself. You are a wise and capable leader."*

—Yoda, to Mace Windu

As a senior member of the Jedi High Council, Mace Windu sought to protect the Jedi Order from the corruption and unrest that undermined the Galactic Republic from within. Noted for his grim demeanor, Windu held corrupt politicians and rebellious Jedi in low regard. He had very little patience for the failures of the Galactic Senate and was disdainful of the Jedi who disobeyed the will of the Council. A staunch traditionalist, Windu was long regarded as the great champion of the Jedi Order. His commitment to the Order's ancient traditions often put him at odds with less orthodox Jedi, such as Qui-Gon Jinn and especially Anakin Skywalker.<sup>[2]</sup> In their first encounter, Windu was unimpressed with Skywalker.<sup>[11]</sup> He was not only skeptical of Skywalker's status as the Chosen One, but also felt that he was too old to dedicate himself to the ways of the Jedi and the Force without the distraction of his emotional attachments. Although he never stopped doubting Skywalker, Windu came to regard him as an exceptionally skilled, yet tempestuous Jedi.<sup>[2][5]</sup> However, his ill-concealed distrust had an adverse effect on his relationship with Skywalker—a sentiment which also extended to Skywalker's apprentice Ahsoka Tano, whom Windu regarded as another rebellious Jedi.<sup>[2]</sup>

With Yoda's support, Windu strove to guide the Jedi Order during the turbulent last years of the Galactic Republic.

Though he was devoted to the Jedi Order, Mace Windu struggled to temper his emotions from a young age.

In the early days of the Clone Wars, Windu wrestled with feelings of uncertainty concerning the Jedi's new role as warriors, as well as remorse for the Jedi who died during the Battle of Geonosis. In his moments of doubt, he turned to Yoda seeking wisdom and guidance. The ancient Grand Master advised his fellow Councilor to keep faith in the will of the Force; nor question his role in the Order, for in Yoda's eyes, Windu was a wise and capable leader. During a mission on Hissrich, Windu's faith was further tested by his interactions with the Jedi Prosset Dibs, who harbored his own reservations about the Order's part in the conflict.<sup>[7]</sup>

Whereas Dibs grew increasingly doubtful, believing the Jedi did not belong on the battlefield, Windu became more certain that—as Jedi Knights—they had a duty to protect the innocent and restore peace to the galaxy. Dibs ultimately accused the Jedi Order of turning away from their traditions, causing Windu to hold fast to his conviction that it was not wrong to fight for the ideals he believed in. The Jedi, Windu felt, never wanted to fight in a war,<sup>[4]</sup> but circumstances compelled them to become a sword instead of a shield for the Republic.<sup>[7]</sup>

When Padawan Ahsoka Tano was framed for treason, Windu supported the Council's decision to revoke her status as a Jedi and turn her over to the Republic for a military tribunal.<sup>[44]</sup> While their verdict pained him,<sup>[45]</sup> Windu concurred with Tarkin's position on the matter—an internal Jedi trial would appear biased, and to protect Tano would be to defy the wishes of the Senate. He therefore felt that the Council had little choice but to submit Tano for trial. After her innocence was proven, however, Windu joined his colleagues in offering to welcome Tano back into the Order, and proclaimed her a greater Jedi because of her ordeal, which he observed as the great trial in her path to Jedi Knighthood. Tano refused to come back, a decision which surprised Windu and the Council.<sup>[44]</sup>

Notwithstanding his commitment to the ancient traditions of the Order, the Clone Wars forced Windu to rethink some of his beliefs and preconceptions.<sup>[2]</sup> Prior to the Battle of Geonosis, he did not believe it was in the nature of a Jedi—even a former one such as Count Dooku—to assassinate anyone. The onset of the Clone Wars caused Windu to realize that his old friend was more than a "political idealist;" he was now an enemy of the Order and the Republic he had once served.<sup>[5]</sup> Furthermore, as the death toll escalated after nearly three years of continuous warfare, Windu proposed to have Dooku assassinated in the hope of preventing further civilian casualties. Although his colleague, Obi-Wan Kenobi asserted that assassination was against the Jedi Code, Windu felt that it was also against the Jedi way to allow innocent people to suffer needlessly.<sup>[54]</sup>

Diplomat and general

*"My name is General Mace Windu of the Jedi Order. At this point of the Clone War, I have dismantled and destroyed over one hundred thousand of you Type-1 battle droids. I am giving you an opportunity to peacefully lay down your weapons so that you may be reprogrammed to serve a better purpose than spreading the mindless violence and chaos which you have inflicted upon the galaxy."*

*"Blast him!"*

*"Well, I guess it was worth a try."*

—Mace Windu, a B1 battle droid, and Obi-Wan Kenobi

As the war progressed, Windu was compelled to engage in politics. Although he disliked the system, he nonetheless proved to be an able diplomat during the Ryloth campaign in which he successfully mediated a truce between two rivals, Senator Orn Free Taa and Cham Syndulla.<sup>[2]</sup> His efforts to find a diplomatic solution were less successful on Anaxes, however. Upon confronting a regiment of battle droids, he offered to have them reprogrammed in return for their unconditional surrender, citing his capacity for destroying Separatist droids as a reason to avoid fighting him. Their response was to attack, forcing Windu and Kenobi to defend themselves.<sup>[53]</sup>

In spite of how the conflict forced the Jedi into the role of generals and warriors, Windu held fast to the Jedi Code for the most part. He refused to support the Dugs of Malastare when they proposed to kill the Zillo Beast, which he correctly presumed to be the last of its species.<sup>[2]</sup> He also chose to not seek retribution against Boba Fett after the latter attempted to assassinate him.<sup>[34]</sup> Despite his disapproval of maverick Jedi and the avarice of the Senate, Windu was very loyal to both the Republic and the Jedi Order to the point where he bravely risked his life for both institutions throughout the Clone Wars.<sup>[2]</sup> Even as the Jedi became officers in the Grand Army of the Republic,<sup>[5]</sup> Windu remained extremely protective of the Order's independence and jealously guarded its interests against external interference.<sup>[13]</sup>

As a negotiator, Windu successfully mediated a truce between Orn Free Taa and Cham Syndulla by appealing to their mutual goal of freeing Ryloth.

Jedi Champion

*"We do what we have trained our whole lives to do. Trust in the Force. Believe in the path that is set out before us. Stand in defense of all peoples, not just of the Republic, but across the galaxy. We do what any Jedi would when staring into the face of evil. We fight."*

—Mace Windu, to Rissa Mano

Though noted for his grim demeanor,<sup>[2]</sup> Windu was highly compassionate towards his fellow Jedi, the citizens of the Republic,<sup>[54]</sup> and the clone troopers under his command.<sup>[32]</sup> His own survival on Geonosis was of little comfort to him; the galaxy had fallen into a state of war, and the Jedi—once the peacekeepers of the Republic—were forced to adopt the mantle of warriors and military leaders.<sup>[2]</sup>

Windu worked closely with Supreme Chancellor Sheev Palpatine, often acting as an adviser to the leader of the Senate throughout the Clone Wars.<sup>[19]</sup> As time went on, the Jedi champion grew increasingly suspicious of Palpatine's intentions. During the Zillo Beast's transportation to Coruscant, Windu strongly disagreed with the chancellor's decision to bring the dangerous creature to the Republic capital.<sup>[2]</sup> Though wary of Palpatine, Windu remained committed to his duty as a Jedi, which required him to ensure the safety of the chancellor. Yet even this responsibility resulted in a disagreement between himself and the chancellor; Palpatine claimed that the level of security around him was unnecessary during his visit to Naboo, but Windu insisted on taking every precaution to protect the chancellor.<sup>[39]</sup>

In the waning days of the Clone Wars, Windu's trust and respect for Palpatine had all but evaporated. Following Dooku's death, he was uncertain whether Palpatine would relinquish his wartime authority as he once promised. At the same time, Windu came to sense the dark side of the Force surrounding the chancellor. By now he was certain that a plot was in motion to destroy the Jedi Order. When Skywalker confirmed that Palpatine's true identity was Darth Sidious, Windu was determined to take swift and decisive action against the Sith Lord, realizing that the fate of the Jedi Order hung in the balance. Although he initially attempted to arrest Sidious, Windu concluded that it was impossible to seek justice due to the chancellor's hold over the system. He therefore decided to end Sidious' life before the latter could succeed in his plan to fully take over the Republic, despite Skywalker's insistence that killing the Sith Lord—disarmed and seemingly beaten—was against the Jedi Code. However, in concentrating all of his attention on preventing the galaxy from falling under Sith oppression, Windu failed to anticipate Skywalker's intervention, resulting in the demise of the Jedi Order's great champion.<sup>[2]</sup>

Mace Windu was a human<sup>[3]</sup> male<sup>[2]</sup> who had brown eyes, dark skin,<sup>[6]</sup> and a height of 1.92 meters.<sup>[2]</sup> His head was completely bald; although in his youth, Windu had black hair and a braid that marked his status as a Padawan.<sup>[4]</sup>

Powers and abilities

*"I have studied his teachings since I was a youngling. His style of lightsaber combat has been the foundation of my own. He is a top five Jedi Master of all time for sure!"*

—Rissa Mano, on Mace Windu

Mace Windu was a highly accomplished and powerful Jedi Master who possessed advanced skills in both lightsaber combat and Force abilities.<sup>[2]</sup> He was a notable practitioner of Form VII,<sup>[59]</sup> also known as Juyo or Vaapad. It was the seventh form of lightsaber combat and considered the most unpredictable or aggressive form.<sup>[60]</sup> In combat, Windu demonstrated his skills as a duelist against fellow Jedi Master Prosser Dibs,<sup>[4]</sup> the Nightsister Mother Talzin<sup>[47]</sup> and even Darth Sidious, the Dark Lord of the Sith. In the case of the latter, Windu not only survived Sidious' initial assault, which resulted in the deaths of three Jedi Masters,<sup>[13]</sup> but ultimately prevailed against the Sith in the fight itself. Following an intense, but relatively short duel between the Dark Lord and the Jedi Order's champion, Windu disarmed and cornered the seemingly defeated Sidious.<sup>[2]</sup>

Windu was also highly adept at deflecting incoming blaster shots with his lightsaber. During the Battle of Geonosis, Windu charged towards Jango Fett while simultaneously deflecting his fire before ultimately disarming and decapitating the bounty hunter in a swift motion. Afterward, he continued to utilize his skills at blaster deflection against an overwhelming number of battle droids, which enabled him to survive long enough until Yoda and the clone army arrived and turned the tide of the battle in the Republic's favor.<sup>[2]</sup> Throughout the Clone Wars, Windu continued to rely on this defensive technique when leading Republic forces on the frontlines, especially during the Ryloth campaign.<sup>[25]</sup> In addition to blaster shots, Windu could use his lightsaber to block a Force lightning attack, which he could also redirect back to its source in a superconducting loop.<sup>[13]</sup>

As a Force user, Windu was proficient in various forms of telekinesis, which he could utilize as both attacks and defenses. He was capable of easily summoning his lightsaber, as demonstrated on Geonosis when he quickly reclaimed his Jedi weapon by way of the Force before Fett could prevent this.<sup>[5]</sup> On Ryloth he used the Force to telekinetically pull battle droids in his direction, rendering them vulnerable to a fatal lightsaber attack. He was also powerful enough to levitate individuals, such as two clone troopers whose lives he saved by using the Force to prevent them from falling to their deaths. In addition to the offensive and defensive applications of the Force, Windu could use his connection to the Force to enhance his physical capabilities, allowing him to engage in acrobatics and land jumps from high places without sustaining injuries.<sup>[25]</sup>

Windu's abilities with the Force extended to mind control, a Jedi technique that allowed the user to exert a considerable amount of influence over weak-minded individuals. Against a person of greater willpower than the average being, however, Windu was forced to combine his effort with Skywalker and Kenobi in order to force Cad Bane's cooperation. Although the initial attempt failed, their combined use of the "mind trick" technique caused Bane to experience significant discomfort, which nearly damaged his mind in the process.<sup>[27]</sup>

Mace Windu redirected Darth Sidious' Force lightning back to its source by using his lightsaber to create a superconducting loop.

Combining his powers with Skywalker and Kenobi, Windu sought to compel Cad Bane's cooperation by way of the Force.

Mace Windu's lightsaber contained an amethyst-colored blade.

Behind the scenes

Samuel L. Jackson portrayed Mace Windu in the prequel trilogy and he returned to voice the character in the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* film. In the *The Clone Wars* TV series, his voice was provided by Terrence Carson, who had also played the role in various Legends animation and video games. Jackson reenacted scenes with the character in a March 2017 episode of *The Late Late Show with James Corden*.<sup>[61]</sup>

The name "Mace Windu" was already featured in the earliest incarnation of what would become *Star Wars*—a 13-page document written by George Lucas in 1973. According to Concept Artist Iain McCaig, early artwork of Windu was based on the face of Industrial Light & Magic modeler Steve Aplin, before the casting of Samuel L. Jackson.<sup>[62]</sup>

Jackson requested George Lucas that his character be given a purple lightsaber because he wanted to be able to find himself in the Geonosis battle scene in *Attack of the Clones*. He reasoned that since Windu is the second most powerful Jedi after Yoda, Windu should have a lightsaber of a different color from the customary red, blue, and green.<sup>[63]</sup>

Appearances

- Star Wars: Force Arena*
- Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* (First appearance)
- Star Wars Journeys: The Phantom Menace*





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